

BOOK REVIEWS

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contemporary mathematician. Why aren't there three or four Mrs. Reids? Answer: they would not get any NSF support.

H. HELSON, *Harmonic Analysis*, Addison-Wesley, 1983, 190 pp.

One feels that every word of this book is sculpted in marble. We hesitate to apply the adjective "definitive," but in this case the word will come naturally to everybody's lips.

P. R. HALMOS, *Selecta, Expository Writings*, Springer, 1983, 304 pp.; *Research Contributions*, 1983, 458 pp.

Reading the selected or collected papers of our best mathematicians is a more rewarding experience than the reading of secondary sources. More often than not, however, one skims rather than reads the ponderous volumes published by Springer, Birkhäuser, or the MIT Press. Halmos is an exception. The papers are uniformly delightful, one cannot put them down. Someday mathematicians will relive the spirit of contemporary mathematics from these two volumes. A perfect Christmas present.

H. OSBORN, *Vector Bundles*, Vol. 1, Foundations and Stiefel-Whitney Classes, Academic Press, 1983, 371 pp.

It is often bad luck to title a book "Volume one." In this case, we hope that it will not hold. A thorough treatment of vector bundles has long been needed, and now at long last here is the first half, readable and complete. We pray for the second half.

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